

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 71**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Adams)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Aanestad)

May 4, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as introduced, Nielsen. Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 99 in Oroville as the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, It was with immense sadness and a deep sense of  
2 loss that word was received of the death of Milton Joseph La Malfa  
3 on October 5, 2008, a distinguished Californian whose character  
4 and deeds in life merit gratitude and respectful acknowledgment  
5 by the people of the state; and  
6 WHEREAS, Born in San Jose, California, to Tony and Marge  
7 La Malfa on February 22, 1937, Milton La Malfa was raised and  
8 lived nearly his entire life in Richvale, California, on the farm that  
9 his Italian grandfather, Giuseppe La Malfa, purchased in 1931;  
10 and

1 WHEREAS, Earning a degree in agriculture/business from  
2 Fresno State University in 1959, Milton La Malfa married Karon  
3 Myers of Oroville, California, in 1958, and their union was blessed  
4 with three children, Doug, Sherry, and Lisa; and

5 WHEREAS, An individual of profound faith, Milton La Malfa  
6 was a source of spiritual inspiration for his family, and he helped  
7 nurture the character of each generation and taught the important  
8 values that have enabled them to succeed in our complex society  
9 and to develop and sustain their faith and community spirit; and

10 WHEREAS, Distinguishing himself as a prominent rice farmer  
11 in the area, Milton La Malfa worked with his father to level the  
12 ground in the 1950's and 1960's, taming new acreage and  
13 improving irrigation methods of rice; Milton La Malfa was also  
14 involved with experimental projects through the rice experiment  
15 station, where he worked on fertilizer and herbicide studies to  
16 improve rice production and yields and grew foundation seed rice,  
17 and in 1960, a small rice dryer was built on the ranch for seed rice  
18 storage and isolation; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to utilizing his outstanding talent and  
20 skills as an innovative thinker in his farming operation, Milton La  
21 Malfa shared his wise counsel in numerous capacities on a broad  
22 range of public and private organizations, including several rice  
23 industry organizations; and

24 WHEREAS, A leader in every sense of the word, Milton La  
25 Malfa provided leadership and results-oriented vision as a director  
26 of the Butte County Rice Growers Association from 1973 to 1975  
27 and again from 1981 to 1986, as well as secretary-treasurer for  
28 four years and chair for one year; Milton La Malfa also served  
29 with distinction as a director of Associated Rice Marketing  
30 Cooperative from 1988 to 1993, serving as chair for one year, and  
31 also gave his time as director of the Richvale Seed Growers for  
32 many years; and

33 WHEREAS, Demonstrating a deep commitment to water and  
34 the needs of the farmer throughout his life, Milton La Malfa was  
35 instrumental in organizing local farmers in 1985 to form the  
36 Western Canal Water Users Association, which initiated the  
37 negotiations with Pacific Gas and Electric to purchase the water  
38 rights and conveyance system for the farmers in the area, and he  
39 subsequently became director of the Western Canal Water District

(formed from the Western Canal Water Users Association) and also served as its president; and

WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa also contributed extensively as a director of Drainage District 200 and was on the Board of the Northern California Water Association, which is the advocacy arm of the water districts in Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Admired and appreciated for his kindness, generosity of spirit, love of family, passion for working to make the world a better place, and genuine capacity to share his time and talents with others, Milton La Malfa was dedicated to philanthropy in his personal life, and his many contributions to the community will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong member of the Richvale Evangelical Free Church, Milton La Malfa served as a trustee on the church board for several years, and he will be remembered throughout the community as a friend and confidant by the many persons whose lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Milton La Malfa enjoyed water skiing and boating, a little golfing and fly-fishing, travel with a few other couples, and especially spending time at Lake Almanor, both in the lake or playing board games with the family; and

WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa recently celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary with his wife, Karon, and is survived by his children, Doug and Jill La Malfa, Sherry and Scott Smith, and Lisa and Kalin Koehnen; his seven grandchildren; and his brother, Anthony La Malfa Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The high esteem in which Milton La Malfa was held by his loving family, his numerous friends, and other individuals fortunate enough to have known him stands as a testament for others who strive for the best in their personal, professional, and community life, and his memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of those people who knew him; and

WHEREAS, For those reasons, the Legislature wishes to express its deepest sympathy at the passing of Milton La Malfa and, by this resolution, memorializes him for his illustrious record of personal, professional, and civic achievements, as well as the love and devotion he gave to his family and friends; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the portion of the State Highway Route

1 99 between Oroville Dam Boulevard West and Nelson Avenue in  
2 Oroville is hereby designated the Milton La Malfa Memorial  
3 Highway; and be it further  
4 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
5 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
6 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the  
7 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
8 sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further  
9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
10 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
11 for distribution.

O